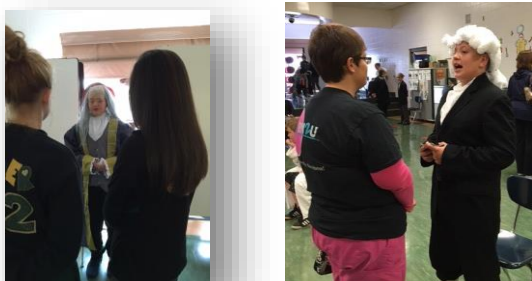


# Fifth Grade Living Museum



## Southwest Elementary School is Making it Happen!



**WE ARE** Greenwood Community Schools. We teach at Southwest Elementary. We are a suburban school just south of the downtown Indianapolis area. The total population of our corporation is 3,757. Our city is fantastic for families of all dynamics.

**OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES** Our school has a percentage of 47% free and reduced lunch. This has increased significantly over the last few years. The demographics in population are the following:

Indian 1%, Asian 2%, Black 2.5%, White, 81%, Hispanic 8.4%, Multi 5%, Pacific islander ,1%

**OUR TEACHERS** We have 4 teachers involved in this event. Many of us have spent many days traveling to historical places where these characters have walked. We incorporate our own past experiences with our students.

**OUR PROMISING PRACTICE** Fifth grade students research a historically significant person. They gather facts and create an outline for a speech about that person's life. Students discuss plagiarism and citing information during this event. Speaking techniques are studied. The culmination of the unit is a LIVING MUSEUM. Costumes are worn as the speakers "COME TO LIFE" at the push of a button.

Everyone from Neil Armstrong to Deborah Sampson can be seen in our cafeteria and gymnasium. The impact to the students is seen in the pride they show as they perform for their parents and school. It is one of our favorite days here at Southwest.

**OUR STEPS** All fifth grade teachers and students are involved. We start out by brainstorming people in history that have had an impact on them. We research, collect facts, place them on notecards, study speaking techniques, and perform a first-person speech about that character. Students come to life with the same passion that they read about in their person of choice. This is a tradition that we have been doing for ten years now. Past students come back just to see it again. This is a school event they never forget.

**IN OUR OWN WORDS** Corina B. says that "The Living Museum gave me an insight of how life during the Revolutionary War was different than my life." Blake R. says, "It made me go deeper into the life of Ben Franklin, other than just learning facts." "This project," says Becki Habig, 4/5 high ability teacher, "allows the students to learn speaking and researching skills, while covering our social studies standards." "The Southwest staff looks forward to this event each year," stated Tracy Havens, fifth grade teacher.